

Applicant: Taka-Aki Sato

Serial No.: [Rule 1.53(b) contin. of S.N. 10/092,138]

Filed: Herewith

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REMARKS

The subject application is a Rule 1.53(b) of U.S. Serial No. 10/092,138, filed March 6, 2002. U.S. Serial No. 10/092,138 is pending today and this application is co-pending therewith for the purposes of 35 U.S.C. §120. Serial No. 10/092,138 has been allowed and Applicant has paid the issue fee (and publication fee) in connection therewith.

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 14 and 15, and amended claims 1, 10-13 and 16-20 to place the claims in better form for examination. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 16-20, with claims 1 and 16 being in independent form, are now pending in the subject application and presented for examination. Applicant maintains that this Preliminary Amendment does not introduce new matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

Copies of the Sequence Listing and Statement In Accordance With 37 C.F.R. §1.821(f) submitted on December 2, 2003 in Serial No. 10/092,138 are submitted concurrently herewith in connection with this continuation application, as **Exhibits A and B** attached hereto. The Sequence Listing and Statement In Accordance With 37 C.F.R. §1.821(f) were submitted concurrently with a computer readable Sequence Listing on December 2, 2003 in Serial No. 10/092,138. Serial No. 10/092,138 has been allowed. Accordingly, Applicant maintains that the computer readable Sequence Listing submitted in Serial No. 10/092,138 was compliant with all of the requirements of the Patent Office.

Applicant hereby requests, in connection with this continuation application, the use of the compliant computer readable Sequence Listing that is already on file for Serial No. 10/092,138 and the paper Sequence Listing submitted

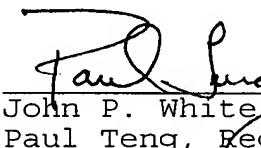
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herewith is identical to the computer readable copy filed for Serial No. 10/092,138.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


John P. White Reg. No. 28,678
Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837
Attorneys for Applicant
Cooper & Dunham LLP
Tel.: (212) 278-0400